ASSOCIATED PRESS 12 October 1984

LEXINGTON, KY

U.S. Sen. Walter "Dee" Huddleston says he favors CIA -directed bombing of a Nicaraguan command post used by leftist guerrillas fighting the Salvadoran government, and suggested the possibility of using American planes in the attack.

"I would favor a daylight or nighttime bombing raid, almost even using our own planes and pilots, to knock out the command and communications control if we can pinpoint exactly what we could achieve," Huddleston, D-Ky., said Thursday during an interview with editors of the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Huddleston, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee that oversees covert action, said he did not support a major U.S. military commitment in Nicaragua or any action that would topple Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

"I don't think the United States army should go charging in there. I think we ought to try to get it done. We would do it in a paramilitary way," Huddleston said. "But I think it (the Salvadoran leftist command center) would be a very important military objective."

A State Department spokeswoman declined to comment on Huddleston's remarks, the paper reported in today's editions.

U.S. intelligence sources have said that the CIA directed an air strike against a suspected Salvadoran guerrilla communications center inside Nicaragua on Feb. 2. The sources, who insisted on anonymity, said the CIA then instructed a Nicaraguan rebel group to claim responsibility.

The sources said the CIA assigned the bombing raid to specially trained Nicaraguan exiles who destroyed what was believed to be a Salvadoran guerrilla communications center near Casitas Volcano in northwestern Nicaragua. Nicaragua said the radio facility was a civilian communications center operated by the government's Institute of Agrarian Reform.

In what it calls an effort to cut off the flow of outside support to the Salvadoran rebels, the Reagan administration has given aid to Nicaraguan anti-leftists, or contras, who critics have charged are trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Among the operations that the administration has supported was the CIA mining of Nicaraguan harbors, a move that Huddleston opposed.

Huddleston said U.S. support of Nicaraguan contras should not extend to disruption of the Central American country, "such as blowing up their power stations or interrupting their food supply."

The contras' efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government is contrary to American objectives, Huddleston said.

"We can't ensure our law or our own objectives by dealing with the contras because they're going to play their own game," he said.

Continued